June 16, 2009 Morning Highlights 2009-12

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Contact:

Public Affairs (907) 356-5511 Report Fires: (800) 237-3633

Nenana Ridge Prescribed Research Burn Update

An afternoon conference call is scheduled to discuss the possibility of the Nenana Ridge research burn occurring tomorrow. The site received rain Sunday and so the burn did not occur yesterday. Weather conditions over the central interior are forecasted to be warmer and dry today. For information about the burn, please visit:

http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/news/flash/Nenana%20Ridge%20Prescribed%20Burn%20Planned%20for%20Monday,%20June%2015.pdf

Fire Update

1,252 lightning strikes were recorded in Alaska Monday, accompanied by precipitation.

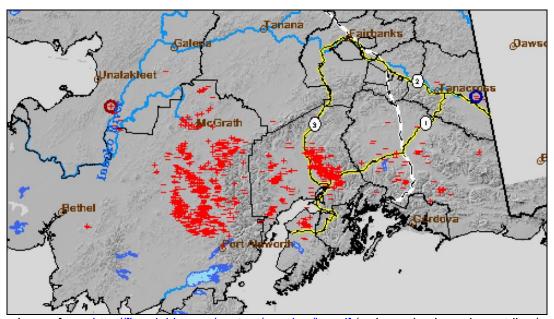


Image from: http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/weather/ltg.pdf (red + and - signs show strikes)

Two new fires were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Monday; one that is staffed near Mountain Village, and a US Forest Service fire which is now out. So far this year, 251 fires have burned 203,001 acres statewide. A total of six fires are staffed:

New fire:

 Two smokejumpers responded to a fire last night near Mountain Village after villagers initially responded. The 13-acre fire originated in the dump but spread into the surrounding grass. Good progress has been made.

Existing fires (all lightning-caused):

- The 43-acre Yellow River Fire is contained and the crews are scheduled to be released today.
- The 895-acre Cobalt Creek Fire suppression effort was aided by air support Monday and the Denali and good progress has been made.

- The 323-acre Holokuk River Fire was contained Monday evening. The Chena and Pioneer Peak Hotshots continue to extinguish hot spots working from the perimeter and moving in toward the interior of the fire.
- Structure protection was required Monday night on a cabin along the Iditarod River due to the proximity of the 4,888-acre Franklin Creek Fire (the cabin is approximately 3/4 of a mile east of the fire).
- The 38,040-acre Tonclonukna Creek Fire will no longer be staffed after today. All
 personnel are being released. Today, the Yukon crew will continue to extinguish hot
 spots around the village of Telida.

Additional information about fires burning in the southwest portion of Alaska may be obtained by calling 907-574-0300. The http://fire.ak.blm.gov Interagency Newsroom also hosts news releases directly from the southwest area. For a map of fires visit: http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php Note: The map takes time to load.

Smoke

People in Alaska may experience smoky conditions this summer, depending on wind direction and fire activity. For information about how you can protect yourself, please visit: http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm

Burn Permits

Please contact your local Division of Forestry Office for permitted burn information. A burn ban is in place in southeast Alaska.

Additional References

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: http://fire.ak.blm.gov/
 - Map of Current Fires: http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php
 - Situation Report: http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf
 - National Fire Situation: http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group- Education and Reference Materials: http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php
- Creating Defensible Space: http://firewise.org/ and http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/06Firewise.pdf
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info): (907) 451-2240, http://511.alaska.gov/
 - Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns): http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm
- National Parks Service: http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm
- National Weather Service: http://www.nws.noaa.gov/
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: http://www.fws.gov/fire/
- USDA Forest Service: http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/
- Anchorage Fire Department: www.muni.org/fire
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc/
- Federal Aviation Administration: http://www.faa.gov/

AICC Morning Highlights is compiled by Maggie Rogers (Alaska Division of Forestry) and Doug Stockdale (BLM Alaska Fire Service).